

# 2004 Report of Accomplishments

## Whitman Conservation District



### Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- 15 Acres of riparian buffers were installed improving water quality by reducing streambank and soil erosion to Penawawa Stream, a salmon bearing stream.
- 634 Acres of contour buffers were installed preventing an estimated 4,425 tons of soil erosion.
- Wildlife habitat has improved by working with 4 landowners to plant 19,500 stems.
- Technical and financial assistance was provided to 5 landowners resulting in the implementation and/or planning of a field access culvert, 3 armored water points, 1 trough, 2 roof runoff systems, riparian fencing, field fencing, windbreak, plant varieties and 31 wildlife cisterns improving water quality by reducing access to the Palouse River and Snake River drainages.



Wildlife Cistern (wildlife watering facility).

### Mission of the Whitman Conservation District

- The Mission of the Whitman Conservation District is to promote the wise, ethical, and sustainable use of Natural Resources, by leadership in the education and assistance of all Stakeholders. The Whitman Conservation District will promote the implementation of the best available conservation measures and provide a forum for local input on Natural Resource issues.

### Water Quality Implementation

- Technical assistance provided to 4 livestock operators for review of the Department of Ecology's water concerns with the livestock operations.
- Continued 30 miles stream assessment on Alkali Flat Creek, Almota Creek and Penawawa Creek for limiting factors for drainage to the Snake River.
- Technical and financial assistance provided through the newly developed District Cost-Share Program to 14 landowners resulting in 16 wildlife cisterns, 2 spring developments, 2 roof runoff management systems, and a wildlife habitat planting to be installed improving water quality by reducing access to the Palouse River and Snake River drainages.
- 658 Customers were assisted by phone or in-person.
- Participation in WRIA 34 and WRIA 35 Planning Sessions.
- Participation in the Palouse Sub-Basin Planning with Palouse Rock Lake CD, and participation in the Snake Sub-Basin Planning with Pomeroy CD.

### Basic Funding

- Provides supplemental funding for district staff (1 FTE), office administration, association dues – no employees, no office, no implementation.
- Provides funding for district staff time for mandatory district requirements: District Operations Review, Management Standards Criteria, Annual Budget submission, Annual Planning reporting, year-end financial reporting, district elections/appointments, state and local audits, and monthly board meetings.
- Provides funding for staff training.
- Provides funding for staff time to seek additional grant funding and submission.

### Professional Engineering

- Provided on-site technical assistance to 4 livestock owners, assisting to meet the Department of Ecology's water quality vague guidelines.
- Design, management, and construction supervision of 20 landowners resulting in a field access culvert, 3 armored water points, 1 trough, and 2 roof runoff systems.
- Coordinated required Professional Engineering Board meetings and manager coordination meetings.
- Administered the Professional Engineering grant for the Southeast Area engineer.

### Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- Technical assistance provided to 4 landowners for the installation of wildlife habitat resulting in 19,500 stems being planted or 39 acres being treated.
- 2,500 plants were sold to 27 agricultural and non-agricultural customers in the District's Annual Plant Sale.

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## Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *Attended 2 County Commissioner meetings to collaborate in a funding proposal submission to Congressman George Nethercutt's office for a local oilseed processor project.*
- *Supervisor participation in the Local Work Group for the Palouse Team.*
- *Regular participation in the Upper Columbia Resource, Conservation and Development Council attending 6 meetings, assisting in the Annual and Area Planning processes, and submission of a proposal for funding.*
- *Participated in 5 meetings to collaborate county activities: Technical Service Provider program; Whitman County Conservation District Council; Department of Ecology Burn Permitting Authority; and Palouse Subbasin Planning.*
- *Submitted oilseed demonstration project grant to be supported by County Commissioners, Canola Commission, and private entities.*



Small oilseed crusher.

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## Information, Education and Outreach

- *Added ½ time (.5 FTE) district staff will be focusing on information and outreach for the District.*
- *Hosted 3 Shop Talks: Soil Disturbance; State Revolving Funds; and Soil Quality. Assisting 32 attendees with information relating to drill disturbance, funding for conservation equipment and defining soil quality and what it means to the individual farmers.*
- *In partnership with the Pine Creek CD, published four quarterly issues of the District's newsletter, The Steward, totaling 23 articles related to water quality with a circulation mailing of 900.*
- *Provided conservation education to 3 fifth grade classes consisting of 75 participants resulting in 1 ½ -acres of wildlife habitat being planted.*
- *Provided water quality education to a sixth grade class consisting of 23 participants.*
- *Demonstration Project: Chemfallow vs. Conventional Summerfallow (>14" precipitation zone) with moisture, organic matter and yield comparisons. 6 soil samplings were completed with newsletter articles and 1 yield cut with results being published.*
- *The District's weather station has been added to the Demonstration Project, Chemfallow vs. Conventional Summerfallow, tracking weather conditions to relate to moisture levels. Includes monthly visits and newsletter articles of findings.*
- *Hosted 3 tours to the University of Idaho's Bio-Agricultural Engineering for promotion of alternative crops in the direct seed / no-till / minimum till crop rotations, focusing on oilseeds, biofuels and by- products.*
- *Co-hosted a County fair booth with approximately 550 persons attending or passing through the booth experiencing the history of conservation farming.*
- *Assisted Pine Creek Conservation District with the 2003 Whitman County Land Judging Contest which consisted of 220 high school students competing in the judging of a variety of soil pits.*
- *Hosted the 2004 Whitman County Envirothon Contest which consisted of 120 high school students competing in 6 different natural resources fields: wildlife, environmental issues, soil, aquatics, forestry, and team presentations.*
- *Managed and promoted the District's Cost-Share Program.*
- *Managed and administered Ecology's Burn Permitting Authority Program.*



Conservation education.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices.